



Does your child's school library media center measure up?

Discuss these elements with your school library media specialist, principal or classroom teacher!

Promote Quality Learning Opportunities

- Does your child have access to the library media center and library media specialist throughout the school day?
- Does the library media center offer remote access to library resources via home computer?
- Is there collaboration between your child's classroom teachers and the library media specialist so learning opportunities extend beyond the textbook and classroom?
- Does your child visit the library media center frequently with his class? Individually? In small groups?
- Do your child's research projects use a variety of technologies to locate and use information?

Provide Student Centered Information & Reading Resources

- Is there a varied and current collection that reflects the curriculum and society in general available to your child?
- Does the library have a wide range of resources in a variety of formats—books, computers, audio and video resources—that appeal to different learning styles?
- Are a wide variety of new books and other print materials that encourage and support reading and learning available to your child?

- Is the library media center's atmosphere energetic and inviting – creating a learning laboratory that includes:
 - a reference area?
 - a storytelling/book talking area?
 - an instructional area?
 - displays of student work?
- Does the media center have multiple, up-to-date technologies that provide your child guided access to:
 - the Internet?
 - an automated card catalog?
 - multimedia production capabilities?
 - on-line and multimedia resources?
 - an area for group instruction in technology and research?

Availability, Program and Policies To Support Student Achievement

- Is the media center and its resources available to your child before and after school?
- Is there enough professional and support staff to meet the needs of all students throughout the school day?
- Is there sufficient space in the library media center so a class of students plus individual students or small groups can access the materials at the same time?

- Is there a professional library media specialist who:
 - teaches the information process?
 - understands the uses of technology?
 - selects and uses a wide variety of materials?
 - works in partnership with your child's classroom teachers to best use the library media center resources to support learning?
 - enthusiastically encourages and supports reading, research and learning through school-wide events?
- Does the library media program respect the privacy of your child and enforce the concepts of:
 - copyright and intellectual property?
 - diversity?
 - safe and acceptable use of Internet resources?
 - intellectual freedom?
- Is the library media program adequately funded to maintain a level of materials and personnel that make a difference in your child's educational program?
- Does your library media specialist communicate with you on a regular basis through the school newsletter or letters home?
- Are school administrators knowledgeable and supportive of the school library media program?
- Does the school provide ongoing training to support teachers and staff in learning about new technologies?



Dear Wisconsin Residents,

The recently completed study of Wisconsin school library media programs, *Students Learning Through*

Wisconsin School Library Media Centers, commissioned by the Department of Public Instruction, has provided insights into how school library media programs and library media specialists contribute to student success.

The study examined the leadership and instructional roles of Wisconsin public school library media specialists required for a quality school library media program and the direct relationship with and impact on student achievement and learning across all grade levels.

The results of the study, along with this brochure containing guiding questions, can help you assess the vitality and involvement of your school's library media center and program.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

Visit these websites to learn more about Wisconsin school library media programs:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/imt/lmsstudy.html>

Students Learning Through Wisconsin School Library Media Centers (complete study results)

What Parents Should Know about Their Child's School Library Media Center (brochure)

Student Learning Through Wisconsin School Libraries: Wisconsin Study Results (1 page study results summary)

<http://dpi.wi.gov/standards/pdf/infotech.pdf>

Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Information & Technology Literacy

For more information contact:

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Measuring Up: Characteristics of Quality School Libraries

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